NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER 1-0681 APRIL 29, 1976
JOHN BUE/PARIS

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE PROBLEMS

ANNCR:

THE DEVELOPING NATIONS AND OPEC MEMBERS TAKING PART IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ON FUTURE WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION. VOA CORRESPONDENT JOHN BUE AT THE SITE OF THE TALKS IN PARIS SAYS THE PROBLEM STEMS LARGELY FROM DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF THE DIALOGUE.

VOICE:

THE NINETEEN DEVELOPING AND OPEC NATIONS IN THESE PARIS TALKS HAVE SAID THAT UNLESS THE MAY UNCTAD (U.N. CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT) MEETING IN NAIROBI ACHIEVES SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS, THE DIALOGUE WILL BE JEOPARDIZED. THE PROBLEM CENTERS UPON THE DEVELOPING NATIONS' PROPOSED INTEGRATED PLAN FOR STABLIZING RAW MATERIAL PRICES COVERING MAJOR COMMODITIES AND WHICH THEY ARE PUTTING FORWARD IN NAIROBI.

THE UNITED STATES, BACKED TO VARYING DEGREES BY OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS, OPPOSES THIS "INTEGRATED" OR PACKAGE APPROACH. EACH COMMODITY, IT FEELS, HAS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND EACH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THE U.S. AGREES, HOWEVER, THAT RAW MATERIAL PRICES SHOULD BE STABILIZED.

THE NINETEEN IN THE PARIS DIALOGUE ARE CLEARLY ANNOYED AT THE REJECTION OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS MASTER PLAN AS IT NOW STANDS, BUT VENEZUELA'S MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, THEIR SENIOR SPOKESMAN, SAID THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER AS LACK OF PROGRESS IN ALL FOUR COMMISIONS DEALING

RESPECTIVELY WITH ENERGY, DEVELOPMENT, RAW MATERIALS AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. HIS STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS A BASIC DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH. THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, STEPHEN BOSWORTH, SAID AT THE END OF THE COMMISSIONS' THIRD SESSION IN PARIS THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THEIR WORK TO BE STALLED. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT IS AN ON-GOING PROCESS DUE TO LAST THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND THAT ONLY THREE MONTHS AFTER STARTING IN FEBRUARY IT IS STILL IN THE ANALYTICAL STAGE. MISTER BOSWORTH SEES THE COMMISSION TALKS AS THREEFOLD, FIRST TO ACHIEVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS, THEN AGREEMENT ON COMMON OBJECTIVES AND, FINALLY, COMMON MEASURES TO MEET THESE OBJECTIVES.

BUT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY IMPATIENT TO OBTAIN RESULTS. THEY WANT THE DIALOGUE AT EXPERT LEVEL IN THE COMMISSIONS TO COME UP WITH WHAT THEY CALL "THE POLITICAL WILL" TO TAKE URGENT MEASURES TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, AND THEY CLAIM THIS POLITICAL WILL IS LACKING. THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS FEEL THAT THIS STAGE CANNOT BE REACHED BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THE YEAR, SINCE THE EXPERTS DO NOT HAVE DECISION-MAKING POWERS.

THUS THE DELICATE TASK FACING THE UNCTAD MINISTERS IN NAIROBI IS TO RESTORE THE GOOD CLIMATE ACHIEVED LAST YEAR AT THE UNITED NATIONS' SPECIAL SEESION ON DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS LARGELY INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING THE PARIS DIALOGUE UNDER WAY.

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